

- 14 -

Having thus described the preferred embodiment, the invention is now claimed to be:

1. A vacuum pump comprising:

an inlet port and first and second exhaust ports
5 through which gas from an enclosure connectable to the inlet can be pumped to said exhaust ports;

a first end, a second end, a third end, and a fourth end, said first exhaust port is located adjacent said first end, said second exhaust port is located
10 adjacent said second end, said inlet port is located adjacent said third end;

a first and second pair of rotors, said first pair of rotors being mounted on a first shaft extending between said first end and said second end of said pump
15 chamber, said first pair of rotors being spaced apart by a first center shaft between said rotors, said second pair of rotors being mounted on a second shaft extending between said first end and said second end of said chamber, said second pair of rotors being spaced apart by
20 a second center shaft between said rotors;

said rotors each comprise a set of screw threads; and

said first center shaft comprises a first lobe extending from said shaft and a first channel, and said
25 second center shaft comprises a second lobe extending from said shaft and a second channel, wherein said first lobe matingly engages said second channel and said second lobe engages said first channel during rotation of said rotors.

2. The vacuum pump according to claim 1 wherein said second shaft is parallel to said first shaft.

3. The vacuum pump according to claim 1 wherein said first and second pairs of rotors each include teeth which mesh together and move a fixed volume of gas

- 15 -

from said inlet port to said first and second exhaust
5 ports.

4. The vacuum pump according to claim 1
further comprising a third exhaust port located at said
fourth end of said pump chamber, and first, second and
third exhaust cavities, wherein said first and second
5 exhaust ports are connected via said first and second
exhaust cavities to said third exhaust cavity, said third
exhaust cavity is connected to said third exhaust port.

5. The vacuum pump according to claim 1,
wherein said lobes are V-shaped.

6. The vacuum pump according to claim 5,
wherein said channels are V-shaped.

7. The vacuum pump according to claim 1,
wherein said lobes are radius-shaped.

8. The vacuum pump according to claim 7,
wherein said channels are radius shaped.

9. The vacuum pump according to claim 1,
wherein said first lobe and said first center shaft are of
one piece.

10. The vacuum pump according to claim 1,
wherein said first lobe comprises an insert secured to
said first center shaft.

11. The vacuum pump according to claim 1,
wherein said first lobe and said second channel form a
first suction section which compresses a volume of gas
entering said pump from said inlet port.

- 16 -

12. The vacuum pump according to claim 11, wherein said first suction section reduces the power consumed to move the volume of gas through the pump chamber and increases pump efficiency.

13. The vacuum pump according to claim 1, wherein said second lobe and said second center shaft are of one piece.

14. The vacuum pump according to claim 1, wherein said second lobe comprises an insert secured to said second center shaft.

15. The vacuum pump according to claim 1, wherein said second lobe and said first channel form a second suction section which compresses a volume of gas entering said pump from said inlet port.

16. The vacuum pump according to claim 15, wherein said second suction section reduces the power consumed to move the volume of gas through the pump chamber and increases pump efficiency.

17. A vacuum pump assembly comprising:
a first end and a second end;
an inlet port at a third end and at least one exhaust port at a fourth end;

5 a first shaft and second shaft parallel to each other extending between said first end and said second end, each shaft comprises a first end and a second end;

10 a first pair and second pair of rotors, said first pair of rotors being mounted about a diameter of said first shaft, said second pair of rotors being mounted about a diameter of said second shaft;

 said first pair of rotors being spaced by a first center shaft and said second pair of rotors being spaced by a second center shaft;

- 17 -

15 said first center shaft comprises a lobe, and
said second center shaft comprises a channel, wherein said
lobe and said channel form a suction section.

18. The vacuum pump according to claim 17,
wherein said lobe and said channel matingly engage during
20 rotation of said rotors.

19. The vacuum pump according to claim 17,
wherein said first and second pairs of rotors each
comprise a set of screw threads.

20. The vacuum pump according to claim 17
wherein said first and second pairs of rotors each include
teeth which mesh together and move a fixed volume of gas
from said inlet port to said first and second exhaust
5 ports.

21. The vacuum pump according to claim 17,
wherein said lobe is V-shaped.

22. The vacuum pump according to claim 21,
wherein said channel is V-shaped.

23. The vacuum pump according to claim 17,
wherein said lobe is radius-shaped.

24. The vacuum pump according to claim 23,
wherein said channel is radius shaped.

25. The vacuum pump according to claim 17,
wherein said lobe and said first center shaft are of one
piece.

26. The vacuum pump according to claim 17,
wherein said lobe comprises an insert secured to said
first center shaft.

- 18 -

27. The vacuum pump according to claim 17, wherein said suction section reduces the power consumed to move the volume of gas through the pump chamber and increases pump efficiency.

28. A method for reducing power to move a volume of gas through a vacuum pump, the method comprising:

- 5 widening a first center gap of a first shaft extending between a first set of rotors in a pump chamber, widening a second center gap of a second shaft extending between a second set of rotors inside pump chamber; adding a lobe to said first shaft; milling a channel in said second shaft to
- 10 matingly engage said lobe; and forming a suction section by engaging said lobe with said channel.

29. The method according to claim 28 further including:

forming said lobe and said channel in the form of V-shaped sections.

30. The method according to claim 28 further comprising:

forming said lobe and said channel in the form of radius-shaped sections.

31. A vacuum pump comprising:

a pump chamber defining an inlet port and an exhaust port;

- 5 a first rotor and a second rotor the first and second rotors being mounted adjacent the inlet and exhaust ports;

a lobe mounted to the first rotor adjacent the inlet port and a channel defined in the second rotor

29/886.021
SCV
8/27/03

- 19 -

10 adjacent the inlet port, said lobe and said channel cooperating to form a suction section adjacent the inlet port.

32. The vacuum pump according to claim 31, wherein said lobe and said channel matingly engage during rotation of said rotors.

33. The vacuum pump according to claim 31, wherein said first and second rotors each include a set of screw threads.

34. The vacuum pump according to claim 31, wherein said first and second rotors each include teeth which mesh together and move a fixed volume of gas from said inlet port to the exhaust port.

35. The vacuum pump according to claim 31, wherein said lobe is V-shaped.

36. The vacuum pump according to claim 35, wherein said channel is V-shaped.

37. The vacuum pump according to claim 31, wherein said lobe is radius-shaped.

38. The vacuum pump according to claim 37, wherein said channel is radius shaped.

39. The vacuum pump according to claim 31, wherein said lobe is integral with a first center shaft section.

40. The vacuum pump according to claim 31, wherein said lobe comprises an insert secured to a first center shaft section.

- 20 -

41. The vacuum pump according to claim 31, further including a second lobe mounted to the first rotor adjacent the inlet port which second lobe cooperates with a second channel mounted to the second rotor to define a second suction section adjacent the inlet port.

42. The vacuum pump according to claim 31, wherein said suction section reduces the power consumed to move the volume of gas through the pump chamber and increases pump efficiency.

43. The vacuum pump according to claim 31, wherein the pump chamber includes a pair of exhaust ports with the inlet port being defined centrally therebetween, further including:

5 a third rotor mounted to an opposite side of the lobe from the first rotor and extending between the lobe and one of the exhaust ports;

10 a fourth rotor mounted adjacent the channel opposite to the second rotor, the fourth rotor extending from the channel to the other exhaust port and meshingly engaging with the third rotor.

44. The vacuum pump according to claim 31, further including:

a manifold connecting the exhaust ports with a high pressure exhaust port.

45. A method for reducing power to move a volume of gas through a vacuum pump, the method comprising:

5 defining a first shaft section extending from a first rotor in a pump chamber adjacent an inlet port;

defining a second shaft section extending from a second rotor inside the pump chamber adjacent the inlet port;

providing a lobe on said first shaft section;

- 21 -

10 defining a channel in said second shaft section which matingly engages said lobe to form a suction section between the rotors and the inlet port.

46. The method according to claim 45 further including:

forming said lobe and said channel in the form of V-shaped sections.

47. The method according to claim 45 further including:

forming said lobe and said channel in the form of radius-shaped sections.